

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division



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Special points of interest:

- Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 2-6. See page 3.
- HSEMD will host an Infrastructure Protection Summit May 23 and 24. See page 4.
- Information on the Fourth Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference is now available at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org. See page 5.

Save the dates July 16-18 for this year's Fourth Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference!

Visit
iowahomelandsecurity.org
for more information.

Iowa Receives Presidential Disaster Declaration

On March 14th, Governor Chet Culver received confirmation that public agencies affected by recent severe winter weather would be eligible to receive federal disaster aid under a Presidential Disaster Declaration authorized by President Bush.

FEMA Director David Paulison said federal funding is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe winter storms in the counties of Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Calhoun, Cedar, Chickasaw, Clinton, Des Moines, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Greene, Grundy, Hamilton, Hardin, Henry, Howard, Humboldt, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Marion, Marshall, Mitchell, Muscatine, Pocahontas, Poweshiek, Story, Tama, Van Buren, Wapello, Washington, Winnebago, Winneshiek, Worth, and Wright.



Top photo courtesy of Mid American Energy near Waterloo taken during the recent ice storm. At right, photo courtesy of Don Lee taken following the snow storm near Moville in NW Iowa.

The declaration makes federal funds available to public entities for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and repairs to publicly-owned facilities and infrastructure. At this time, state officials are working with FEMA to determine if other counties will qualify for aid based on the results of damage assessments. Mahaska and Polk Counties were added to the declaration on March 26th based on damage assessments in those counties. *Continued on page 2.*

Iowa Receives Presidential Disaster Declaration

Continued from page 1

In addition, more counties may be added under a Governor's Snow Request for public assistance for 37 counties in western and northwestern Iowa for the blizzard that followed the ice storm. This would cover overtime, equipment and expenses associated with snow removal.

Counties included in this request include: Primary Counties: Adair, Audubon, Buena Vista, Carroll, Cass, Dickinson, Greene, Guthrie, Hancock, Harrison, Ida, Monona, Osceola, Sac and Shelby. Contiguous Counties: Clay, Crawford, Emmet, Humboldt, Kossuth, O'Brien, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Pottawattamie, Winnebago and Wright. Special Circumstances: (These are counties located along the Interstate highways that were closed during the storm.) Cerro Gordo, Dallas, Franklin, Fremont, Hamilton, Madison, Mills, Polk, Story, Woodbury, and Worth.

State Assistance to Individuals

While uninsured personal property losses were not high enough to request federal assistance for individual Iowans, the state has started a program to fill that void for the neediest Iowans. On March 6, Governor Culver signed into law a \$1 million grant program for low income Iowans who suffered losses due to the severe winter weather conditions. Under this program, low-income Iowans may apply for state grants to replace storm-caused losses.

To receive reimbursement under the program, Iowans must supply original receipts. Officials stressed that many applications are being submitted without the receipts and are not eligible under the program. An application form with instructions is available on the Department of Human Services Web site <http://dhs.iowa.gov> or applicants may go to any Department of Human Services county office or to any county emergency management office. Completed applications should be taken to the county emergency management coordinator. A list of county emergency management offices is available at the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Web site at <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/>. Look for the Winter Storm Assistance link on the front page.

The Iowa Department of Human Services has set up a toll free hotline (866-434-4692) for those with questions. For clarification on types of assistance programs being offered, visit: <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/DisasterAssistance0316.pdf>.

Severe Weather Awareness Week Coming April 2-6

Iowa Governor Chet Culver, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and the National Weather Service have designated April 2-6, 2007 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Iowa. A tornado drill will be held from 10:00-10:30 a.m. on April 4. In case of bad weather, the drill will be held on April 5.

HSEMD will run public service announcements on radio stations statewide during Severe Weather Awareness Week to promote preparedness information on www.BeReadyIowa.org and to promote a free, random drawing for 30 NOAA weather radios featured on this Web site.

County coordinators: More information is available for your use including posters and press releases at http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/resource_room/info_library.asp.



HSEEP Train-the-Trainer Course Coming in June

The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) train-the-trainer course will be held June 5-8 in Altoona, Iowa. Graduates will be expected to provide HSEEP training at the local and regional levels. The target audience for this class includes: exercise program managers, exercise planning team members, controllers/facilitators, evaluators, and senior officials.

Prerequisites include: IS-120a, An Introduction to Exercises. This course provides an orientation to the types of exercises used to test and evaluate a community's emergency plan. To access the IS-120a course, go to: <http://hseep.dhs.gov>.

To register for this course on-line, visit <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>.

HSEMD to Host Infrastructure Protection Summit

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division will host an Infrastructure Protection Summit May 23 and 24, 2007 at Prairie Meadows in Altoona, Iowa.

The goal is to provide representatives from government and industry the opportunity to learn about efforts and strategies to secure critical infrastructure and key resources not only within Iowa but the nation. Speakers will share, National Infrastructure Protection Plan roles, federal enforcement of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan, information sharing and threat integration and sector specific infrastructure protection.

This is an opportunity for county emergency management coordinators, first responders, local, tribal, and state entities, law enforcement, private sector and others to share and discuss current issues related to the National Infrastructure Protection Plan.

Additional information and registration will follow as logistics are finalized. Please check back as information will be posted to the HSEMD Web site. For more information contact Vicki Morris at 515-725-3231.

NIMS Update

Following is a brief update on NIMS for the state.

Total number of compliancy letters received: 1608

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| * County Government | 85 |
| * Cities | 764 |
| * Other (EMA, Public health, etc) | 759 |

County Government:

* 86 percent have sent in compliancy statements.

Of the 947 cities in Iowa (reported by the League of Cities):

* 85 percent have sent in compliancy statements.

The top 15 counties and 20 cities by population have been identified and are required to take ICS 300 and ICS 400. Iowa Central Community College is offering these courses. There are limited funds available, and those who have been identified to take the course are encouraged to contact Iowa Central Community College by June 1, 2007 to reserve seats for a class.

The FY07 federal compliancy tool (NIMSCAST) is now out. County coordinators have accepted the challenge of collecting data for their county and only one NIMSCAST will be submitted per county. State personnel will preload the tool for coordinators and they will only be responsible for answering 15 of the 70 questions. The NIMSCAST will be sent to county coordinators along with the guidance to the questions in April or May.

ACAMS Discussed With Private/Public Partners

To establish a common platform for infrastructure protection efforts in Iowa HSEMD staff is meeting with key public and private partners to establish the best approach to implement the use of Constellation/Automated Critical Asset Management System (ACAMS) in the State of Iowa. The first step in the process is to increase the awareness of ACAMS by providing meeting opportunities for private and public sector representatives across the state.

Constellation/ACAMS is an automated site profiling system for local and state governments to use in protecting critical infrastructure and key resources. Developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Los Angeles Police Department, the system is currently being used as the primary critical infrastructure protection assessment tool in approximately 25 states.

The system is accessible from any web connection providing real-time information about the asset to first responders and incident commanders. A complete ACAMS site assessment will produce a vulnerability assessment and security plan, Buffer Zone Protection Plan and pre-incident operational plans for local law enforcement and first responders. Additional capabilities include store and catalog critical asset data, resources such as the Field Operations Guide and the Response Information Folder, and an integrated Geospatial Information System mapping tool.

ACAMS provides the capability to meet the requirements of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7, which requires a national effort to enhance the protection of critical infrastructure and key resources. To further enhance the protection of these assets, Congress passed the Critical Infrastructure Information Act of 2002.

The Critical Infrastructure Information Act also protects ACAMS information from public disclosure and overrides all federal, state, and local disclosure laws. This federal protection enables businesses to share sensitive information with a maximum level of protection. While it may not provide the level of protection required for some information, it does provide enough information security to build meaningful security plans and assessments.

To date, HSEMD has conducted four ACAMS awareness briefings in the state with additional meeting dates to be determined. For more information on Constellation/ACAMS please contact Curt Sullivan, Asset Protection Specialist at 515-323-4217 or e-mail Curt.Sullivan@iowa.gov.

IERC Meeting Outcomes

The Iowa Emergency Response Commission (IERC) met March 8, 2007. At the meeting it was noted that the IERC has set aside a portion of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant money to assist Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) members in attending the Region VII LEPC Conference in Kansas City August 16-19, 2007. (A conference brochure is available at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org.) Those wanting to take advantage of this financial assistance must send a request to Paul Sadler at paul.sadler@iowa.gov by July 1, 2007. They must be a member of their county or regional emergency planning committee. A travel claim must be submitted after the conference with documentation.

Other items mentioned were: 1) A temporary committee was formed to review the HMEP grant allocation formula. All Iowa counties have a compliant hazardous materials response plan in place. 2) The Environmental Protection Agency will be sending out an Internet-based survey to all LEPCs. The purpose of the survey will be to assess the capabilities of LEPCs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to chemical emergencies. 3) New versions of Cameo are available. For more information visit <http://www.epa.gov/ceppo/cameo/index.htm>. 4) Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) workshops are coming up. To register visit: <http://www.epcra-tri.com>. 5) New electronic versions of the List of Lists are available at: [http://yosemite.epa.gov/oswer/ceppoweb.nsf/vwResourcesByFilename/title3_Oct_2006.pdf/\\$file/title3_Oct_2006.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/oswer/ceppoweb.nsf/vwResourcesByFilename/title3_Oct_2006.pdf/$file/title3_Oct_2006.pdf)

The next IERC meeting will be September 27, 2007.

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HSEMD Mission

Lead, coordinate, and support homeland security and emergency management functions in order to establish sustainable communities and ensure economic opportunities for Iowa and its citizens.

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

HSEMD Spotlight: Lisa Sexton

Lisa Sexton recently moved to the Grants Bureau. In her new position, she will serve as a project officer, and will continue her work on the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP).

Lisa had worked in the training area since she started with the Division in April 1998. Many know her for her work on the division's annual conferences, new coordinator orientations, and emergency planning courses. She has worked with HMEP since 2002, and has been the division's lead on the grant since 2003. Lisa started her career with the State of Iowa in 1990 with the Iowa Department of Human Services.

A native of Algona, Iowa, Lisa currently resides in Indianola with her husband Craig and sons Grant and Connor. In addition to watching her boys participate in sports, she loves reading and taking trips with her family.



Homeland Security Conference Update

The Fourth Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference will be held July 16-18 at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines.

Hear from well-known speakers, meet new people, see the latest technology.

For more information, visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org and click on the conference link at the top of our home page. Registration information will be coming soon, so please check our Web site in a few weeks. E-mail questions to: governor-sconf@iowa.gov or call Mary Ann Lee at 515-243-2000.



**TEAMING
FOR
SUCCESS**

Need a Speaker for Your Next Meeting?

If you are part of an organization that brings in speakers, HSEMD would like to speak to your group about the steps that have been taken since the 9-11 attacks and the role the public plays in preparing for all types of disasters. Whether it's civic groups or church organizations, we'll be happy to come and tell our story anywhere in the state.

To find out more, or to make a request, contact Lucinda Robertson at 515-725-3239 or e-mail at Lucinda.Robertson@iowa.gov.